
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6879

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Tom, McDermott, and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to the joint task force on basic education finance;
2 and amending 2007 c 399 s 2 (uncodified).

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** 2007 c 399 s 2 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

5 (1) The joint task force on basic education finance established
6 under this section, with research support from the Washington state
7 institute for public policy, shall review the definition of basic
8 education and all current basic education funding formulas, develop
9 options for a new funding structure and all necessary formulas, and
10 propose a new definition of basic education that is realigned with the
11 new expectations of the state's education system as established in the
12 November 2006 final report of the Washington learns steering committee
13 and the basic education provisions established in chapter 28A.150 RCW.
14 In light of recent court decisions, the task force shall specifically
15 consider issues related to equalizing school employee salary
16 allocations among school districts. By December 1, 2008, the task
17 force shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on
18 all of the information required under this subsection.

1 (2) The joint task force on basic education finance shall consist
2 of fourteen members:

3 (a) A chair of the task force with experience with Washington
4 finance issues including knowledge of the K-12 funding formulas,
5 appointed by the governor;

6 (b) Eight legislators, with two members from each of the two
7 largest caucuses of the senate appointed by the president of the senate
8 and two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
9 representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of
10 representatives;

11 (c) A representative of the governor's office or the office of
12 financial management, designated by the governor;

13 (d) The superintendent of public instruction or the
14 superintendent's designee; and

15 (e) Three individuals with significant experience with Washington
16 K-12 finance issues, including the use and application of the current
17 basic education funding formulas, appointed by the governor. Each of
18 the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives and the senate
19 may submit names to the governor for consideration.

20 (3) In conducting research directed by the task force and
21 developing options for consideration by the task force, the Washington
22 state institute for public policy shall consult with stakeholders and
23 experts in the field. The institute may also request assistance from
24 the legislative evaluation and accountability program committee, the
25 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the office of
26 financial management, the house office of program research, and senate
27 committee services.

28 (4) In developing recommendations, the joint task force shall
29 review and build upon the following:

30 (a) Reports related to K-12 finance produced at the request of or
31 as a result of the Washington learns study, including reports completed
32 for or by the K-12 advisory committee;

33 (b) High-quality studies that are available; and

34 (c) Research and evaluation of the cost-benefits of various K-12
35 programs and services developed by the institute as directed by the
36 legislature in section 607(15), chapter 372, Laws of 2006.

37 (5) The Washington state institute for public policy shall provide
38 the following reports to the joint task force:

1 (a) An initial report by September 15, 2007, proposing an initial
2 plan of action, reporting dates, timelines for fulfilling the
3 requirements of section 3 (~~of this act~~), chapter 399, Laws of 2007,
4 and an initial timeline for a phased-in implementation of a new funding
5 system that does not exceed six years;

6 (b) A second report by December 1, 2007, including implementing
7 legislation as necessary, for at least two but no more than four
8 options for allocating school employee compensation. One of the
9 options must be a redirection and prioritization within existing
10 resources based on research-proven education programs. The report must
11 also include a projection of the expected effect of the investment made
12 under the new funding structure. The second report shall also include
13 a finalized timeline and plan for addressing the remaining components
14 of a new funding system; and

15 (c) A final report with at least two but no more than four options
16 for revising the remaining K-12 funding structure, including
17 implementing legislation as necessary, and a timeline for phasing in
18 full adoption of the new funding structure. The final report shall be
19 submitted to the joint task force by September 15, 2008. One of the
20 options must be a redirection and prioritization within existing
21 resources based on research-proven education programs. The final
22 report must also include a projection of the expected effect of the
23 investment made under the new funding structure.

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